

CATTLE RAISING.

Instances of Enormous Profits That Have Been Realized by the Cattle Kings.

The Safest and Surest Way in the World—Some of the Largest Herds on the Western Plains and Their Owners.

From "Cattle Raising on the Plains," by W. B. Von Rethen.

That the Western prairies, with their countless herds, may become the meat-producing center of the world is proved by the fact that they already occupy that position relative to the American nation, and that, according to statistics, the demand in London for American cattle is continually increasing. It is calculated that if in North America cattle raising should suddenly cease all present existing cattle would be eaten up within five years. Since 1860 thirty states and territories show a decrease, five are standing still and only four show an increase of their stock in comparison with their population. According to statistics the increase of population is much more rapid than that of stock. The proportion is 24 to 14 per cent. With this fact before us we see that it is necessary to raise more stock or the price of beef will rise continuously. I remember the time, not more than fifteen years ago, when I paid for beefsteak, cutlets, etc., less than ten cents a portion in Germany, while at my visit last year I paid as much as thirty-five cents. This shows a considerable increase in prices. Everybody knows how dear living has become in consequence of the constant rise in the price of beef.

This fact is very encouraging to cattle-breeders and herd-owners. For many years to come they need not have any fear of overproduction. The census of the United States shows a population of 50,000,000, with a yearly increase of two and three-quarters per cent. Cattle raising does not keep pace with this rapid increase of population. The Eastern and Middle States show a rapid decrease of cattle. The land there is too dear to make the business of raising cattle profitable, and it pays the farmer better to turn all his attention to the cultivation of cereals and vegetables. Although he will always be obliged to raise a few cattle, he has already given up the idea of profitably raising herds, for he remembers that he must pay for his pasture from \$20 to \$100 per acre, and also must raise hay and fodder for his cattle, and that he has to compete with the herds raised on western pastures formerly worth nothing, and now perhaps only \$2 or \$3 per acre, on which cattle thrive and fatten winter and summer without shelter. This great pasture region of North America has an area of 1,650,000 square miles, and is watered by hundreds of rivers and rivulets, which head in the Rocky mountains and furnish to the herds the purest, sweetest and healthiest drinking water. The climate of these great pastures, as a whole, is excellent; it cannot be compared with that in Europe and the east under the same latitude.

HOW CATTLE INCREASE.
If 100 cows and their female progeny be kept at breeding for ten years, the result would be as follows: Estimating the natural increase at 80 per cent., of which 40 per cent. of the cows would have calves, which would, beginning when two years old, in their turn have young:

100 cows in first year drop	40
100 cows in second year drop	40
100 cows in third year drop	40
100 cows in fourth year drop	40
200 cows in fifth year drop	80
300 cows in sixth year drop	120
400 cows in seventh year drop	160
500 cows in eighth year drop	200
600 cows in ninth year drop	240
800 cows in tenth year drop	320
Total, ten years	1,428

The number of steers would be the same as that of heifers, 1,428. Total increase, 2,856.

From this deduct an annual loss of 3 per cent. of the number of cattle on hand, and make another deduction for the reason that cows will only average eight calves in ten years; take your original price of one hundred cows, deduct for the keeping of the same \$1.50 per head per annum, and you will find an enormous increase and an immense sum representing the value of cattle on hand, and will learn at what rate the capital in the live stock business increases.

INSTANCES FOR PROFIT REALIZED.
Just as the cattlemen of the West are in business, upright, honest and accommodating, so they are in private life courteous and estimable, and to these traits I am indebted for the information concerning instances of success which I will now mention.

Mr. F. P. Ernest is the cattle king of Colorado, owning the largest herd in the state. This gentleman, a Texan born, came to New Mexico in 1871 with \$1800 and engaged in the business. He had accumulated by 1875 a herd of 6500 head, which he removed the same year to Colorado. He bought near Deer Trail, on one of the tributaries to the Platte river, enough water front to control a range large enough for his future business, and this location enables him to control 1,500,000 acres of pasture. His herd has grown, by natural increase and by fortunate purchases, which his foresight and judgment enabled him to make from time to time, to 35,000. Last year he sold about \$200,000 worth of beef. He has been offered for his herd, with range and privileges, \$250,000, but he declined the offer.

One of the first men to engage in cattle-raising was R. G. Webster of Denver. He has not only been very successful but has also become prominent among the cattlemen by his devotion to and furtherance of all the interests of the cattle business in the West. He began in 1872 in Colorado with thirty-five head and \$500 in cash. Being unacquainted with the business when he began, he devoted all his time and energy to it and made himself conversant with all its details and managed it with such skill, both in buying and selling, that he was enabled one year ago to sell his interest for \$135,000.

Mr. George A. Binkelman of Denver began business in 1868 on the Kiowa, east of Denver, with 100 head of all ages and both sexes. He thinks that from the first his natural increase was 80 per cent, annually, none of which he has lost, because he was careful to keep his herd together. In the fall of 1875 he removed his herd to the Republican river, farther north. It had increased to 1200 head.

During the first year of his arrival there Indians and buffalo-hunters set the prairie on fire, by which most of his herd

was scattered and lost. This caused him a great loss of time and business opportunities, before he could collect his herd again. Nevertheless, he has now on his range 8,000 head of cattle, mostly steers. From time to time he bought one piece of water-front after the other, and owns now about twenty miles of water-front, controlling all the range contiguous to it. He thinks the profit of 25 per cent. per annum is the minimum the cattle business will yield. During all the time he has also invested, from the profits of this business, in real estate in Denver, and is now the owner of quite a number of houses and lots.

Another prominent and experienced cattlemen now living in Denver is Mr. Alfred Butters. He has been engaged principally in buying, fattening and selling steers. His last transaction was the following: He bought 2,500 head of two and three-year-old Texan steers at a cost of \$42,000, including horses, saddles and camp outfit. He held them two years and sold them for \$110,000. These cattle were shipped and sold at the markets of Kansas City and Chicago. His range was located both in the Indian Territory and in Colorado.

Another very striking example of profits and fortune made in cattle-raising is the experience of Mr. Day of Wolf Creek, I. T. In 1875 he invested \$150,000 in Texas stock, and at the end of six years (two years ago) he sold his herd, not including any land, for \$450,000, and offered, after the contract was made, \$10,000 bonus to the buyer to release him from his contract. No outside money was put into the business during these six years.

The following is a statement of the business of a banker of Denver, who does not wish his name thus advertised:

In 1875 he bought 320 head of cattle for	\$ 4,000
In 1879 he bought 1000 head of cattle for	10,000
In 1880 he bought 1000 head of cattle for	20,000
In 1882 he bought 1000 head of cattle for	35,000
Horses and ranch	\$ 72,500
Total	55,500
In 1880 he sold steers for	55,500
In 1881 he sold steers for	55,500
In 1882 he sold steers for	55,500
In 1883 he sold the rest of his stock and ranch for	100,000
Total	\$196,000

The net profit of his business in five years was \$120,000.

Ten years ago an Irish servant girl wanted money due her, amounting to \$150, from a cattle-raiser who lived in Montana. Cattle had been dull and he could not dispose of any of his herd, but agreed to her to brand fifteen cows in her name, give her the increase, and carry them with his herd, free of cost, until she was ready to sell, to have the first privilege of purchase. She accepted, held on to her purchase, and last May sold out to her master for \$25,000.

SOME OF THE LARGEST HERDS.
Statistics will best show the magnitude of the cattle business in the West and South.

Texas alone is credited with having 40,000,000 head of cattle running on its prairies, although hundreds of thousands are driven yearly north to replenish the herds of other states.

The Northwestern Texas Cattle Raising association has 223 members, who own from 1000 to 60,000 cattle, and represent 1,400,000 head. Several of them can boast of herds of 10,000 to 60,000 head, and there are fourteen members who own 20,000 head each.

Among the first from the North to embark in the cattle business in Texas were Harold Brothers of Illinois, who started in 1875 in Greer and Tom Green counties. They invested \$48,000 in 4500 head of cattle. Today they are owners of 60,000 head, worth at least \$1,500,000.

During 1882 they sold 10,000 head, and this year will brand more than 15,000 calves. For the last six years they have been improving their herd by crossing with Shorthorns and Herefords.

One of the largest herds is that of Charles Goodnight. He began four years ago buying land at the head of Red river—170,000 acres—at 35 cents per acre. In the meantime the price of land has advanced to \$1 and \$2 an acre; but he is still buying more, and now controls 700,000 acres.

To inclose his landed possession 250 miles of fence is required. He has a herd of 40,000 head. This is not the largest in the state, but it is the finest, having been carefully graded up. The superiority of this herd is generally conceded. Recently he obtained for 200 yearlings \$20 per head, while the average price of Texas yearlings is only \$15. He branded last year 10,000 calves.

The Matador Cattle company's ranch is situated in Motley and Cottle counties, on the Peace river. This property includes 100,000 acres of land, and was recently sold to a company of Scotch capitalists for \$1,250,000.

The Worsham Cattle company in Wilbarger and Hardeman counties have 35,000 head.

The Western Land and Cattle company of London was organized in 1882 with a capital stock of \$500,000. They have 30,000 head, mostly half-breeds, in the Panhandle and on the borders of New Mexico. James A. Forbes of London is managing director in America.

The Chicago and Texas Cattle company, a recent organization, has 12,000 to 15,000 head on the Colorado and North Concho rivers. The herd cost \$215,000.

Nelson Morland recently bought 124,000 acres in Tom Green and Andrew counties, which he intends to fence and stock up with cattle. Adjoining this property John R. Honie has 51,200 acres.

The Chicago syndicate, composed of J. V. Farwell, C. B. Farwell, Abner Taylor and Col. Babcock, which had the contract of building the state capital at Austin, receive for this outlay 3,000,000 acres of choice land. The cost of the structure was \$2,000,000. It is the intention to stock this immense property with cattle. Col. King of Texas sold his cattle and range near San Antonio for \$4,000,000 to an English syndicate, and it is now the largest range in the world.

The Prairie Cattle company's property lies in three divisions. The first, the Arkansas or northern division, extends from the Arkansas river on the north to the state line of Colorado and New Mexico on the south, a distance of seventy miles, and from a line drawn north and south at a distance of ten miles west of the town of La Junta on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, it extends a distance of fifty miles eastward, embracing a territory of 5500 square miles, or 2,240,000 acres. On this princely range there are 55,982 cattle. To manage this herd 300 horses are used by the ranchers. Value of land, \$163,492; of cattle, \$1,705,000; \$1,791,492.

The second, Cimarron, or central division, extends from the state line to Colorado and New Mexico on the north to the southern line of Mora county, New Mexico, on the south, a distance of eighty-four miles, and from a line drawn north and south of Sierra Grande on the west, to the Texas state line on the east,

a distance of forty-eight miles, embracing an area of 1022 square miles, or 2,580,480 acres. Lands in this division are estimated to be worth \$253,545; the number of cattle is 57,799, and their value \$1,444,975. The value of the whole property is \$1,755,920. In the management, 500 horses are used. General headquarters are located here, and the greater part of the Southern rounding-up is managed from this range. A telephone line of 150 miles connects the general headquarters with those of the northern division.

The Canadian or southern division of the company's property is situated on the Canadian river, in the counties of Potter and Oldham. In the Panhandle of Texas the longest cross lines are twenty-five and sixteen miles, respectively, and the area is 400 square miles, or 236,000 acres. The land is not so good as in other divisions. The price paid for the land is sixty cents per acre, while the value of the 20,800 cattle is \$715,272, and of the 200 horses \$8000. The whole property is worth \$771,072. The herds are carefully graded with Durham, Shorthorn and Hereford blood. The increase has been very large. The grand total value of the three ranges, cattle and improvements is placed at \$4,416,184.

The Prairie Cattle company began three years ago with 104,000. This number has in two years increased to 139,000, while in the meantime the company has drawn from the beef sufficient to pay all expenses, and \$10,000 in 1881, and in 1882 \$50,000 of profit. The number of calves branded in 1882 was about 26,000.

The Cimarron Cattle company, in New Mexico, on the Cimarron river, has about 1200 acres of water-frontage, with sufficient control of range to herd their 20,000 head of cattle.

The Red River Cattle company, in New Mexico, owns the Noland grant with 150,000 acres of fine land, of which 100,000 are fenced. This company has 6000 head of cattle, and will sell after this year nearly 2000 head of steers.

The American Cattle company of Scotland operates in Western Nebraska. The range consists of 1500 square miles on both sides of the Niobrara river, which the company bought in 1881, with 25,000 head of cattle.

The Maxwell Cattle company, a new organization, has leased the Maxwell grant in New Mexico, with 1,400,000 acres, for thirty-eight years, and the capital stock issued is \$200,000. This grant is capable of sustaining 50,000 head of cattle, just now 10,000 head are on it.

The Powder River Cattle company of Wyoming has a capital stock of \$500,000, and includes among its directors the duke of Manchester, William Tipping, Lord Henry Neville, Ernest Berket Denison and Andrew Whitton. This landed property is valued at \$258,000.

The largest herd-owner of Wyoming was Mr. A. H. Swan, who sold recently to a new Scotch syndicate his 67,000 head of cattle for \$1,500,000, and is now managing the business.

The Marquis de Mores, the French cattle king on the Little Missouri river in Montana, is constructing buildings necessary for the purpose of killing and dressing beef on this range, and his intention is to kill eighty beaves, or two car-loads, per day. A company has been organized in St. Paul under the name of the Northern Pacific Refrigerator Car company, with a capital of \$200,000. It has a contract for ten years with the Northern Pacific railroad, and will transport the meat from this place.

Besides the cattle interest of the Marquis de Mores at that point, a herd of 14,000 Texas cattle and Colorado steers, with some Herefords, will be driven to that locality from Colorado, W. A. Towers of Colorado being the owner.

These few herds mentioned are merely illustrations of the great wealth invested in the business.

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